

Message Text

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ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 MCE-00 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-07
NSAE-00 AID-05 IGA-02 EB-08 ACDA-12 SS-15 TRSE-00
OMB-01 COME-00 DODE-00 /071 W
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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3975
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 00499

USEEC PASS UNDER SECRETARY COOPER

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EAIR, MASS, FR, US
SUBJ: DEFENSE PROCUREMENT -- GOF PLUGS GE/SNECMA
ENGINE

1. IN A JANUARY 5 DISCUSSION WITH UNDER SECRETARY COOPER, QUAI ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS DIRECTOR FROMENT-MEURICE TOOK THE OCCASION TO PUT IN A PLUG FOR THE GE/SNECMA ENGINE AS A REPLACEMENT ENGINE ON APPROXIMATELY 600 KC-135'S FOR WHICH BOEING HAS WORLDWIDE MODERNIZATION PLANS. FROMENT-MEURICE SAID THE GE/SNECMA CFM-56 WAS A COMPETITIVE, FUEL-SAVING ENGINE. ABOVE ALL, ITS SELECTION BY THE UNITED STATES WOULD GIVE CREDENCE TO THE CONCEPT OF DEFENSE PROCUREMENT AS A TWO-WAY STREET BETWEEN EUROPE AND THE U.S. IT WAS IN THIS CONTEXT PRIMARILY THAT HE WAS RAISING THE MATTER.

2. COMMENT: AS THE DEPARTMENT IS AWARE, THERE IS A
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HISTORY OF DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE FRENCH AND BOEING ON POSSIBILITY OF MOUNTING THE CFM-56 ON THE 707 CIVIL VERSION. THESE TALKS FELL THROUGH WHEN THE FRENCH OPTED IN FAVOR OF COOPERATION WITH DOUGLAS ON ASM AIRLINES PROJECT -- WHICH ALSO GOT NOWHERE. AS FOR MOUNTING THE CFM-56 ON EITHER THE 707 OR KC-135 VERSION, WE HEAR FROM AN INDUSTRY SOURCE THAT THE CFM-56 ENGINE

IS CURRENTLY PRICED QUITE HIGHER THAN THE PRATT AND
WHITNEY PRODUCT.

3. THIS MESSAGE WAS DRAFTED AFTER UNDER SECRETARY
COOPER'S DEPARTURE. HARTMAN

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NNN

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